

1-1952

## The Rouen Post, January 1952

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# THE ROUEN POST

## NEWS-LETTER

Devoted to the interests of the members of B.H. 21 World War I and the 21st Gen. Hosp.  
World War II

January, 1952

Bill Engel, Editor

### CHARLES H. JABLONSKY DEAD

After a five year fight against unconquerable odds, the colorful First Sergeant of Base Hospital 21 of World War I, Charles H. Jablonsky, died Saturday evening, January 5, 1952, at 8:30 o'clock in VA Hospital Jefferson Barracks, Mo. His end came after hours of peace and quiet, fortified with the Sacraments of the Holy Mother Church, in the presence of his faithful wife, Ann, his sister, Mrs. Ruth Jablonsky Cross, and other members of the family.

He was born in St. Louis, would have been 62 years old January 31 of this year and was married to Ann Dougherty in 1920.

It was indeed proper that he should have passed away without suffering and any knowledge of pain. Through the five long years Charlie Jablonsky endured what men of lesser courage and a lesser desire to carry on, would not have accepted.

Many times we have written about Jablonsky so we shall try not to repeat. The old Sergeant did not care too much about seeing his name in print and was annoyed at us on numerous occasions because we found it expedient to write about him.

Jabby, as he was familiarly known to his contemporaries, was appointed First Sergeant of B.H. 21 by then Commanding Officer of the Unit, Colonel Borden S. Veeder. Colonel Veeder had a large group of able and better educated men from whom to choose, including some old regular army sergeants of many years' experience, yet he selected Jablonsky. We asked the Colonel, a keen judge of persons, what yardstick he had used in making his decision. He replied, "Bill, we had a lot of prima-donnas in that outfit who did not

differentiate between duty and play and I decided I did not need that kind of a man as First Sergeant. What we needed was someone with some resemblance to a soldier and Jabby was that kind. From the first day I saw him perform I knew he had the makings of a soldier. Sergeant Jablonsky not only justified my action but he went far and beyond my expectations."

When Rouen Post #242 was organized in 1936 we found Jabby as one of its most interested and devoted members. From the beginning he was Post service officer and also served as commander. In fact, he was the Post's permanent service officer and even after he could no longer carry on his duties as such, the title was his.

While Charles was commander of Rouen Post it was conducted in accordance with the rules as set forth in the American Legion Manual. He was so meticulous in conducting the meetings that he made a chart for procedure and never deviated from it. He was that way in everything he did. We have been informed that his records as deputy jury commissioner were the best ever kept by anyone. From our association with him we can well understand.

Beneath the Sergeant's rough exterior he had a heart of gold and would extend himself to be of service in any worthwhile cause. He was an ardent Legionnaire and until his health failed attended every type of meeting within the sphere of his activities. He also was Rouen Post's permanent delegate to state conventions. Attending these meetings was a serious business with Jabby, and when he reported to the Post on the convention there was complete coverage.



The members knew he had attended the sessions and that he had not gone for "social purposes."

Life was a serious business with Charlie Jablonsky so was his devotion to his wife, Ann. He was of Polish decent and born a Lutheran. Ann being Catholic, Charlie also decided to embrace the Catholic Faith but he did not approach the subject in a manner that most persons would. When he had reached his decision he took his instructions without letting his wife know of his intentions. One Sunday, while attending Mass with her, as had been his custom, when it came time to take Communion, she started down the aisle and the little round man was at her side. She tried to thwart his efforts but there was no stopping him. He went through the service with a perfect performance. After it was over he confessed that he had taken instructions and had embraced the Catholic Faith. A more devout member of any church we have never known.

One of old Jabby's greatest pleasures was to heap abuse on this writer. He loved to "ride herd, rough-shod," but a more devoted, loyal and sincere friend we have never known. Even during our visits to his bedside at the most critical times, he would manage some bit of sarcasm about some real or imagined oversight on our part. Jabby did not do that to those he did not like. We shall miss him, but he shall linger in our memory, forever.

We have referred to the great voids left in the thinning ranks of B.H. 21. The void First Sergeant Jablonsky leaves will be equally great in his own niche. The enlisted personnel of the Unit will always remember him as a fair and square "top kick" with equality for all and no favoritism.

Mrs. Ann Jablonsky has asked us through our paper to express her most sincere appreciation to those who visited him during the long period of illness and to those who paid their respects to his remains. Also for the floral pieces and the many Mass cards which were left in his memory.

BRIG. SIR THOMAS DUNHILL

During the recent illness of the King of England one of the illustrated magazines

carried pictures of the King's doctors. Among them was one of Brig. Sir Thomas Dunhill, Surgeon to the King. It brought back to the memory of a number of the officers of Base Hospital 21 the Rouen days when Colonel Dunhill, an Australian surgeon, was surgical consultant to the area. He became a good friend of many on our surgical staff and helped us in our work and problems. After the war he went to London as surgeon to one of the largest hospitals, and in time became Surgeon to the King and was knighted.

It was suggested that we send him our Christmas greetings and this finally developed into the idea of sending something more substantial in view of the shortage of certain foods in England at the present time. As a result it was arranged to send him a food package containing a ham, sugar and tea as a Christmas greetings from Base Hospital 21, together with a letter.

Two letters have been received from him by Colonel Veeder thanking the members of Unit 21. A few excerpts will be of interest to all members of the Unit.

\* \* \*

You can scarcely imagine the interest and pleasure that your letter has given me. My mind goes back so often to those days, and many of the incidents are as fresh in my mind as when they occurred. Perhaps I should not say that one of the memorable happenings was the egg nog on the morning of Christmas day, and the fine singing of "Alouette," the verses of which continued on and on as long as the eggnog lasted, and as the latter was made in a huge zinc-lined washing tub, that was a considerable time. I had never realized that anything which slid down one's throat so easily, and seemed so innocuous, could have such powerful effects! I recall that I got our O.C. home to our own hospital with considerable difficulty, but in a happy frame of mind.

You may know that Mal Clopton always dined with me in London when he visited England. I remember so well each of the men you have mentioned who have died--Fred Murphy, Allison, Rainey, Fischel, Sidney Schwab, and also Miss Stimson. They were a fine group of people.

Will you ask Ernst whether he still manages to accumulate the finest apparatus



of the land when no one else could obtain any more than the most primitive types. He will remember when I asked him whether this was obtained by great bribery and corruption, he replied, "A well placed cigar is quite adequate." Anyhow I admired his ability to get possession of the apparatus as much as I did the beautiful pictures he produced with it. It is nice that you have him, Proetz, Post and Brown still with you. I am so glad that the tradition is carried on and that a 21 General Hospital pulled its weight in the recent war.

I have sampled the ham, and it is quite delicious. I am looking forward to many enjoyable meals from it, and to sharing some of it with my friends. The tea and sugar are extremely valuable. I grow my own fruit in the country and get great fun from pruning the trees myself. When possible I like to make jam from my fruit, but this is always limited on account of the sugar ration. The sugar you have sent me will enable me to use my fruit to the full this year. The side of bacon goes straight to my heart--like many people, my heart and stomach are on interchangeable terms.

Again with my warmest thanks and kindest regards to Ernst, Proetz, Post and Brown, as well as to you yourself, and the younger members of your association.

Tom P. Dunhill

\* \* \*

#### AMONG OURSELVES

Dr. M. E. Casberg of the 21st G.H. has resigned as Dean of St. Louis University Medical School, effective July 1, 1952.

\* \* \*

Dr. George J. L. Wulff of the 21st G.H. has been appointed director of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at St. Luke's Episcopal-Presbyterian Hospital, it was announced. The appointment was effective January 1, 1952.

Dr. Wulff, who lives at 12 Princeton Place, University City, has been a member of the St. Luke's staff for 14 years. He is assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at Washington University School of Medicine.

A graduate of Washington University School of Medicine in 1933, he was com-

manding officer of a field hospital in the European Theater in World War II after leaving the 21st G.H.

\* \* \*

Dr. Oscar P. Hampton, Jr., of the 21st G.H. was elected and installed as president of the St. Louis County Medical Society recently.

Dr. Hampton, an instructor in clinical orthopedic surgery at Washington University succeeded Dr. William H. Bailey.

\* \* \*

Dr. M. E. Casberg of the 21st G.H. has been named Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Defense.

\* \* \*

#### LETTERS

Dear Mr. Jackson: The enclosed check for Rouen Post News-Letter is much delayed for which I should be ashamed of myself. I offer my apologies.

The names of Base Hospital 21 personnel appearing in the News-Letter bring back many happenings to mind and I sometimes think of writing of them but many things prevent.

My regards to Bill Engel and to other of B.H. 21 you may encounter. I would like especially to be remembered to my army of thirty-two nurses and forty-eight enlisted men comprising "Base Hospital 21 Additional Personnel."

Members of this group will recall the two months' delay in joining our friends in France due to difficulty of obtaining transportation from St. Louis to New York and in getting uniforms for the men and all this time nurses were parked on Ellis Island. . . .

W. S. Thomas, M.D.

Please change my address from Clifton Springs, N. Y. to Dr. W. S. Thomas, 1321 Highland Ave., Rochester 18, N. Y.

\* \* \*

Bill Engel & Justin Jackson: Dear Buddies:

Herein is an add-to another "rebirth" of the Rouen Post to keep up with the vital statistics of the 21sters. I see in your last edition the roster giving address of Ella Estes Duncan as living. Ella Estes Duncan died March 15, 1950 at Brown Hospital V. A., Dayton, Ohio. Possibly you have not had this information.



I enjoy the Rouen Post very much.

May File Harned

Ed.'s Note: Thanks, May File, we did not have this information. Obviously the mailing department at the center disregards passing along such information, although we offer to pay for it.

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Jackson: Enclosed is the annual check for the Rouen Post News-Letter. Please keep my name on the mailing list. Mr. Engel seems to make each issue more interesting to we oldsters. Best wishes to you all.

Saidie Hausmann

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Jackson: Enclosed is my contribution to The Rouen Post.--Chas. Eyerman,  
M.D.

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Jackson: I find it is a year since I sent a donation to the Rouen Post so here is my check.

I would miss the News-Letter a great deal if it had to be discontinued.

Olive Serafini Flynn

\* \* \*

Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Stonewall: I attach hereto a check for my American Legion dues for the next year.

I also attach a small check for the Post paper, as I believe it has been about a year since I sent the last one.

We want to keep the paper going as I imagine that the other out-of-town people enjoy same as much as I do. It is the only way we have of keeping in touch with the old crowd.

It has been a long time since I have been over to St. Louis and I hope to get down there some time within the next month or so. If so I will certainly get in touch with some of the old Legion boys as I always look forward to seeing you and the rest of the crowd.

The Allen family are all well but the old man is certainly getting along in years. I realize this when I find that my oldest daughter is graduating from Western College at Oxford, Ohio this year, my second daughter is a junior down at Duke University, Durham, N. C., and the third and youngest daughter is in high school. This adds up to a few years, but I am still as active and as good a man physically and mentally as I have always been. Most people think I am about 35. You might pass this information along to "One Kidney"

B

Bowman and some of the other old men in the outfit. When we were in France I used to tell them if they led as good and Christian upright a life as I did, they would be better in their older years.

Spencer Allen

\* \* \*

Ed.'s Note! We have not been in Cincinnati in several months but expect to be there real soon. In order to be able to follow the strenuous pace of a previous visit we shall have to provide for extra vitamins in advance. Don't know how he felt the next morning but he certainly had the writer pretty close to the end of the "count" in the early hours of the morning.

W.E.E.

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Jackson: Enclosed is check for dues and Post. Though I am sure my enclosed check cannot play much of a part in getting the Rouen Post out of the red I am happy to help in a small way.

I would be sorry not to receive news of all Unit 21 from time to time.

Best wishes to you.

Lena Fabick

\* \* \*

St. Louis

Dear Jackson: Enclosed is my check for 1952 dues in Rouen Post.

Also notice my new address. We have sold the bakery and am taking it easy now. I find this life of retirement almost as ardent as working at a regular job. ... Will be seeing you soon. -- Charlie Koch  
New address: 7248 Moller Avenue.

\* \* \*

Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friends: Enclosed please find check for 1952 dues, plus a little something for the Rouen Post.

I for one would miss the publication of the paper a lot, hope it keeps on coming.

I hope all you gals and guys will vote for the favorite son of Ohio come this year's election. In my humble opinion Mr. Robert Taft is the smartest and most capable man we have for that high office.

Marie Kammeyer Stockhaus

\* \* \*

St. Louis

Dear Jackson: Please credit this check to the Rouen Paper. I am resigning from the Legion Post because of lack of interest on my part.

Charles O'Keefe, M.D.

\* \* \*



Galt, Ontario  
I have been slow in sending in my dues.  
Have made the order for extra for postage  
on the Rouen Post.

Miss you all very much.

Margaret Conochie

\* \* \*

The foregoing letters and notes are from  
B.H. 21 personnel. Following are from 21st  
G.H., except the first two which are a com-  
bination.

\* \* \*

St. Louis

Dear Justin: Please note enclosed note and  
add enclosed money to the party receipts.

Don't know what brought this beneficent  
act about but leave us prosper and be  
happy.

Dave Kerr

\* \* \*

St. Louis

Dear Dave: Enclosed find a buck. The ham  
hock which we took home for use with tur-  
nip greens turned out to have more meat on  
than was at first suspected.

Add this to the general fund.

Marvin Hamilton

\* \* \*

331 Mt. Vernon Road

Buffalo 21, N. Y.

Parkside 2981

Hi Bill: We've transferred here and wonder  
if anyone else of the 21st would be around  
this area. Have not been to Missouri for  
two years now so let's have a reunion this  
year. Are there any possibilities?

Hope you and Mrs. Engel are in the best  
of health at long last and wish you both a  
happy holiday.

As ever ... Maggie Robertson Loomis

\* \* \*

Ed.'s Note! Perhaps Dr. Bob Kelley, Com-  
mander of Rouen Post can enlighten us if  
there are any plans under way for a re-  
union ....

\* \* \*

Attached is our contribution for the  
coming year's Rouen Post News-Letter.

Eva Watkin Bentley ... Wilson J. Bentley

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Jackson: I am enclosing my con-  
tribution to the continued life of the  
Rouen Post. It is the one way of keeping  
informed as to the activities of old  
friends.

Helen Davis

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Engel: Have forwarded my contri-  
bution to Justin Jackson to help the News-  
Letter along its way for another year.

Major Lewis is now at Bad Mannheim, Ger-  
many but will be stationed in Frankfurt  
after October. The children (Linda, 6½  
years and Jimmy, Jr., 4 years) and I are  
anxiously awaiting our "port call" so that  
we can join him. I expect it will be well  
toward the New Year before that time comes,  
however.

In the meantime please keep my address  
as 1517 W. 2d St., Grand Island, Nebr. as  
my Mother will forward mail to us wherever  
we happen to be.

My best wishes to you in your gallant  
effort to keep all of us in touch with one  
another.

Alice Kokrda Lewis

\* \* \*

Dear Bill: How would you like to help a  
guy out?, for this bazaar (see enclosed  
card) we have to have packages from all  
over for the post office--to sell and to  
auction. Would you be an angel and send a  
couple of 25 cent packages, wrapped sepa-  
rately and sent through the mail to me--so  
I'll have something from St. Louis. It's  
6431 22d Ave., Kenosha, Wisc. I'm new in  
town and in the club and on the committee  
and would like to show these old biddies  
how such a thing is done! - right!

I'll reimburse you when we meet again at  
the next reunion.

Alice Kokrda Lewis' husband was home on  
an emergency flight, his father having died  
suddenly--a nice man--and the army let Maj.  
Lewis come home from Germany, nice wasn't  
it? He's back there again. Best regards  
and thanks.

Knute

\* \* \*

How well we obeyed the command in the  
preceding letter is described in the letter  
to follow. -- Ed.

Dear Bill: Just received your note and  
the package letter--I opened it carefully,  
for re-sealing--the scarf is lovely. Thanks  
to your secretary but I happen to know those  
things cost 59 cents. Believe me, all the  
packages are worth more than 25 cents--as  
you say what's a quarter? Got 11 packages  
from Denmark and they paid an awful lot of  
postage, too, poor things. My folks are  
going to Denmark together as new Nash am-  
bassador--in May for five months--a pre-  
golden wedding trip (it's in 1954). We sold



our country place for \$30,000--so we've had lots of excitement. Thanks again!

Love to all ... Grethe ... Knute  
Ed.'s Note: What a gal. The new marriage hasn't changed her a bit. Now we have ourselves using the verbiage short-cuts ....

\* \* \*

Monroe, La.

Dear Mr. Jackson: In due time the amount will be added to, but I do want you to know that I have enjoyed every copy of Rouen Post. Moreover appreciated your patience with my tardiness in contributing toward its publication. Now that you have kept me posted through the lean seasons while I was working on a Master's degree maybe I can do better in supporting the paper in these somewhat better times. After the tax bill goes through I reserve the right to withdraw that last statement.

This year I am working in Monroe, La. at the E. A. Conway Hospital as a clinical instructor. In reality my appointment was made at Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where all of the faculty of the nursing department are hired. However, the clinical areas are located in five different hospitals and E. A. Conway is one of those. This is the first time this hospital has had students and so it is quite an interesting adventure for the nursing service personnel, as well as for the clinical instructor who is writing this note to you. If any of the 21st is planning on seeing the Mardi Gras in New Orleans I hope they will give me a call in Monroe.

I was so sorry to hear of Miss Spalding's father's death. I am sure I bespeak the sentiments of all of the nurses when I say she was a rare gem among chief nurses.

Thanks again for keeping me on your mailing list ...

Beverly C. Andre'

\* \* \*

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Justin: Enclosed contribution is only one of a series to come. Very best regards and wishes to all. -- Oscar Kraines

\* \* \*

We also had a New Year's card signed,  
Helen, Oscar and Carole Kraines

\* \* \*

Also had lots of Holiday cards from members of both the Units, the most interesting being the cards of the Anschuetz's, the Kelley's and the Lattner's, all former 21st G.H. lads, with pictures of their children.

Those three families not only are contributing generously to our ever increasing population but have thrown in charm and beauty as well.

\* \* \*

My dear Mr. Engel: A Happy New Year to you and all of the members of the hospital units--the 21sts. Will you be good enough to express my thanks to Mr. Manley for the kind remarks he wrote and his kind advice he said in his few lines to me about my son Albert. It feels so good that strangers are so nice.

God bless you and Mr. Manley and all his friends.

Louis Lustig, father.

\* \* \*

Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Dear Mr. Jackson: I'm sending the check to help finance the Rouen Post News-Letter. I appreciate the fact that other persons are giving much time and effort to keep us posted on the happenings of other members of the Units.

May I say "thanks" to everyone connected with the work.

Geneva Book

\* \* \*

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jackson: Today I discovered that I had failed to mail my check for the Rouen Post News-Letter. It is good that all members of the 21st are not so negligent.

Helen M. Davis.

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Jackson: Please keep sending me notice of meetings. One of these nights I'll be able to make one. I'm there in spirit tho' so give my regards to all our comrades.

Edward J. Manley

\* \* \*

Wauscon, Ohio

Dear Mr. Jackson: Here is my check for the News-Letter which I enjoy so much.

When I left St. Louis it wasn't forthcoming but think through Lucy Spalding took care of that, at least I now have a wonderful supply of back issues. So keep sending them.

Mary Burkholder

\* \* \*

Please send contributions to

Justin J. Jackson

10530 Far-View Ave., W. Overland 14, Mo.

Also material for the NEWS-LETTER to

Bill Engel

220 N. 4th St., St. Louis 2, Mo.